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Sons of the American revolution. Hawaiian society.
An address ... concerning the annexation of Hawaii

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AN ADDRESS

BY THE

Hawaiian Branches

OF THE

Sons of the American Revolution,

Sons of Veterans,

AND

Grand Army of the Republic

TO

THEIR COMPATRIOTS IN AMERICA

CONCERNING THE

ANNEXATION OF HAWAII.

WASHINGTON, D. C.:
GIBSON BROS., PRINTERS AND BOOKBINDERS.
1897.

FRED LOCKLEY
RARE WESTERN BOOKS
4227 S. E. Stark St.
PORTLAND ORE.

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librarian
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PREFACE.

The accompanying address concerning the annexation of Hawaii was drawn up and adopted by the Hawaiian branch of the "Sons of the American Revolution" on May 22, 1897, and was thereafter adopted by the Hawaiian branches of the "Sons of Veterans" and the "Grand Army of the Republic."

Each of these patriotic organizations has a membership resident in Hawaii of from 40 to 50 members.

There have been so many conflicting statements concerning Hawaii that it was deemed proper by the organizations named to set before their compatriots in the home country an authoritative statement, which can be relied upon as correctly setting forth the facts and the views of those who have an equal interest in both countries.

The fact that the address was unanimously adopted by each organization separately, indicates the unanimity of spirit among the thinking portion of the Hawaiian population upon the subject.

Although addressed more particularly to members of the organizations named, it is hoped that members of other patriotic organizations, and Americans generally, will consider it as addressed equally to them, and that all Americans who believe that the annexation of Hawaii is a proper national policy will exert their influence to accomplish it, in such manner as they may deem best.

Among other methods of exercising legitimate influence, the following are suggested:

1. The adoption of resolutions by political, social, commercial, and other bodies; publication thereof in local newspapers and forwarding copies to Senators and Representatives to present to Congress.

2. Writing to individual members of Congress with whom you are acquainted.

3. Circulating this and other literature upon the subject in order that the questions at issue may be understood by the American people.

Additional copies of this address, and other literature concerning Hawaii, can be obtained by writing to

P. C. JONES,
President Hawn. So. S. A. R.,
1730 *H Street, Washington, D. C.*

12-14-39 Mc A.B.

AN ADDRESS

BY THE

HAWAIIAN SOCIETY

OF THE

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

HAWAIIAN SOCIETY

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
PETER CUSHMAN JONES

VICE-PRESIDENT
CHIEF-JUSTICE ALBERT F. JUDD

SECRETARY
JOHN EFFINGER

REGISTRAR
PROF. WM. DE WITT ALEXANDER

TREASURER
WILLIAM J. FORBES

HAWAIIAN SAFE DEPOSIT BUILDING,

HONOLULU, H. I., *May 22, 1897.*

To the Members of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Residing in the United States of America.

COMPATRIOTS: We, members of this first chapter of the S. A. R. established in a foreign land, send fraternal greeting to our compatriots in the mother country.

Occupying this advanced post of American civilization in the Pacific Ocean, we think it proper for us as patriotic Americans and lovers of liberty, in the present critical state of affairs, while avoiding all partisan considerations, to lay before you a statement of certain facts which intimately concern the honor and the future prosperity of our common country, and the maintenance of American principles and institutions here.

These islands furnish a signal example of the pervading and transforming power of those principles which it is the object of our Society "to maintain and extend." Americans may well be proud of what a little colony of their countrymen has achieved for civilization in these islands, encouraged and aided, as it has been, by the policy of the United States for more than half a century. And now that this American civilization, built up under the fostering care of the mother country, is in imminent peril, it is time that the true state of affairs should be understood by all loyal Americans.

HAWAII THE MEETING PLACE OF AMERICAN AND ASIATIC CIVILIZATIONS.

These islands are the meeting place of the East and the West, of the American and the Asiatic forms of civilization, and a few years will witness the triumph of one or the other. Few of our countrymen are aware of the rapid changes taking place in the condition of the Pacific Ocean. Australia is becoming a mighty commonwealth; Japan is pushing her way to the front as a naval and commercial power; China is beginning to awake out of her long sleep; while Russia only waits the near completion of the trans-Siberian railroad to compete for the control of this ocean.

THE PROPHECY OF WM. H. SEWARD.

The prophecy uttered thirty years ago by Wm. H. Seward bids fair to be fulfilled, viz: "The Pacific Ocean, its shores, its islands, and the vast regions beyond, will become the chief theatre of events in the world's great hereafter."

HAWAII WITHIN THE SPHERE OF THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

The position of these islands shows that their relations are naturally with the American Continent. For that reason they properly fall within the sphere of the Monroe Doctrine, and it is certainly for the interest of their people that they should be kept aloof from the politics of the Old World. It has been remarked that San Francisco, Honolulu and Unalaska form an equilateral triangle. The relation of these islands to the Pacific coast of America is very similar to that of the Bermuda Islands to the Atlantic coast.

HAWAII'S STRATEGIC POSITION.

Admiral Belknap and Captain Mahan have ably explained the unique strategic position of Hawaii, forming as it does "the centre of a vast circle whose radius is approximately the distance from Honolulu to San Francisco, which is substantially the same distance as from Honolulu to the Gilbert, Marshall, Samoan and Society Islands, all under European control except Samoa, in which we have a part influence." * * * "Shut out from the Hawaiian Islands as a coaling base," continues Captain Mahan, "an enemy is thrown back for supplies of fuel to distances of 3,500 or 4,000 miles—or between 7,000 and 8,000 miles going and coming,—an impediment to sustained maritime operations well-nigh prohibitive." "It is rarely that so important a factor in the attack or defence of a coast line—of a sea frontier—is concentrated in a single position, and this circumstance renders it doubly imperative upon us to secure it if we righteously can."

THE "CROSS-ROADS OF THE PACIFIC."

The commercial position of the islands is not less unique and important, standing as they do at the "Cross-roads of the Pacifice," at the intersection of the steamship lines from Australia to San Francisco and to Vancouver, and from San Francisco to Japan and China. The opening of the Nicaragua Canal and the completion of the Siberian railroad will add immensely to the importance of these islands as a coaling station and a distributive point for commerce. Nor can they be passed by in any scheme for laying telegraph cables across the Pacific.

Aside from their position on the globe, the Hawaiian Islands have a claim on your consideration, both for what they are and for what Americans have made of them. They comprise an area of nearly 7,000 square

miles, or four million acres, the greater part of which, however, is occupied by rugged mountains or tracts of lava. The climate is subtropical, being modified by the trade-winds, the ocean currents from the Bering Sea, and the lofty mountains, on some of which snow falls every winter. It is better suited for white labor than that of a large part of the southern belt of the United States. It may safely be said that the islands have undeveloped resources capable of supporting with ease five times their present population.

AMERICANS HAVE MADE HAWAII WHAT IT IS.

This is not the place to give even a sketch of the history of this country. It is well known that the Christian civilization of these islands is mainly due to the philanthropic labors of American citizens who saved the native race from the rapid extinction which threatened them, secured for the down-trodden serfs their lands and civil rights unknown before, preserved the independence of their country, and assisted them in organizing and carrying on a constitutional government. It is mainly due to American influences that life and property are as secure here as in any spot on the globe, that justice is administered in accordance with the common law, that there is gratuitous compulsory education in the English language for all, that crimes of violence are rare, and houses generally left unclocked, while tramps and professional beggars are unknown.

EX-SECRETARY FOSTER'S VIEWS.

As Hon. John W. Foster testifies of Honolulu, "In scarcely any other city of the world can be found a community more fully imbued with the spirit of enterprise, education, and intellectual culture."

PROPERTY OWNED AND BUSINESS CONTROLLED BY AMERICANS.

Of the capital invested in the islands two-thirds is owned by Americans. It is chiefly owing to American energy and enterprise that a population of about 100,000 souls exported productions valued at more than fifteen millions of dollars, and imported over seven million dollars' worth last year. Of this trade ninety-two per cent. was with the United States, and eighty-two and one-half per cent. of it carried on under the American flag. Nothing like this is true of any other foreign country in the world. More than a third of all the American merchant ships engaged in foreign trade are employed in the commerce of this lilliputian republic.

CAUSES OF THE OVERTHROW OF THE MONARCHY.

This is not the place, nor is it necessary, to vindicate the revolution of 1893. The underlying causes of it were similar to those of the American revolution. It may truly be said that it was the same element that had procured for the Hawaiian people their lands and their civil rights, that had saved their independence, and had borne with the Hawaiian monarchy long after it had become a demoralizing sham, and that at last was forced in self-defence to put an end to it.

The revolution was not the work of filibusters and adventurers, but of the most conservative and law-abiding citizens, of the principal tax-payers, the leaders of industrial enterprises, who had endured the rule of carpet-baggers and palace parasites until "forbearance ceased to be a virtue."

THE RECORD OF THE REPUBLIC.

The record of the present republican government, which has administered the affairs of this country for four years, and which, according to Hon. John W. Foster, "has been distinguished by great ability, careful

attention to the interests of the people, and by thorough integrity," fully justifies the character and motives of those who founded it. But this Government does not regard itself as permanent, for by its constitution it declares its purpose to go out of existence as soon as the United States shall consent to admit these islands into the Union. It has already been shown that there is a vigorous American colony in the islands, and that there is ample wealth and intelligence here to carry on and to pay all the expenses of a territorial government under the broad ægis of the Union.

HAWAII HAS ARRIVED AT A TURNING-POINT.

It may be said: "Why not continue as you are for an indefinite period?" We reply that *we have arrived at a turning-point where things will not long remain as they are. The irrepressible contest between the Asiatic and American civilizations is becoming more intense and will not be decided in favor of America except by annexation.*

An active movement has been on foot here for some time to abolish the system of contract labor, and to seek white workers from the United States, under a system of profit-sharing which is already in operation on some of our plantations, and has been successfully tried in Queensland. Special efforts have also been made by this Government, with a gratifying degree of success, to attract industrious farmers from the United States to develop our coffee lands. But if our overtures for a closer union with the mother country are spurned, if our products are discriminated against in American markets, and we are treated as aliens, it is certain that neither of these undertakings can succeed. The uncertainty that will hang over the fate of this country will deter the most desirable class of settlers from coming here.

JAPAN'S PEACEFUL INVASION.

On the other hand, Japan is quietly pouring in her people for the purpose of making a peaceful conquest of the Islands, which is a perfectly legitimate ambition. We can restrict or exclude Chinese immigration, for we have no treaty with China. But, unfortunately, our treaty made with Japan in 1871 contains the "favored nation" clause, and under its provisions we cannot prevent her people from coming as free immigrants. Five immigration companies are at work, with their agents in Japan, who resort to every artifice to drum up recruits and to evade our immigration laws.

The recent enforcement of a law intended to exclude paupers has led to a serions controversy between the two Governments. The native press of Japan, and many of her people residing here, plainly avow their intention to possess Hawaii. It would not be good diplomacy to admit officially that any such intention exists, nor is it necessary for Japan to use any force to accomplish her ends.

As Compatriot W. R. Castle has well stated it, "When Hawaii shall be full of Japanese, many of whom will be educated men, and just as intelligent as our present electors, can it be supposed that we can prevent them from voting? Never! and by a single election all will be changed. Can your Government object to this or complain of it? No; for it will simply be an act of the people of the Republic of Hawaii. Nor can you complain of the next step, the withdrawal of all negotiations for annexation, for protection, or for any form of closer political or commercial union. Meanwhile, a Hawaiian Minister will be kept in Washington, and 'cordial relations' will be maintained with the United States, as the President will continue to say in his messages to Congress."

But the Republic of Hawaii would then be run by loyal subjects of the Mikado, its markets would be filled with Japanese products, its industries carried on by Japanese planters and manufacturers, and its ports filled with ships carrying the victorious flag of the Rising Sun. And if, when the time is ripe, Hawaii should proceed to ask for actual annexation to Japan, who would have a right to interfere? Certainly not the United States, after having so long refused all offers of annexation. The "dog-in-the manger" policy will not succeed in the long run.

OBJECTIONS TO ANNEXATION NOT WELL FOUNDED.

If the objections that are commonly urged in the United States against the annexation of the Islands on the grounds of non-contiguity, undesirable population, and unfitness for statehood are examined, they will all be found to apply in a still greater degree to the acquisition of Alaska. In fact, the plans of the far-seeing statesman who brought abont the purchase of Alaska included also these islands and a future isthmian canal. The act of annexation would not *per se* confer American citizenship on any who were not already citizens of the Hawaiian Republic. The laws of the Federal Government in regard to naturalization and immigration would immediately come into force, and be applied to the Asiatic elements of the population, and contracts for labor would cease to be made.

Under the security of the starry flag, American skill and enterprise will work the same wonders here that they have done in Southern Califiornia. The process of Americanization will be rapid, although the difficulties in the way have been greatly increased by the delay of the past four years.

APPEAL TO COMPATRIOTS TO EXERCISE INFLUENCE IN FAVOR OF ANNEXATION.

Believing that no half-way measure will meet the case, and that now is the time for the United States to secure this outpost of its western frontier, not only for its security and the development of its commerce, but for the sake of maintaining and extending American principles at this central meeting place of races, we request our compatriots to give this subject a careful and calm consideration, and to exert their influence for the cause of freedom, either as individuals or officially, as shall be deemed most proper.

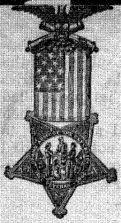
For the Society:

PETER CUSHMAN JONES,
President.
JOHN EFFINGER,
Secretary.



The above address was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Hawaiian Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, May 22, 1897.

JOHN EFFINGER,
Secretary.



GEO. W. DE LONG POST, No. 45,

Grand Army of the Republic,

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA.

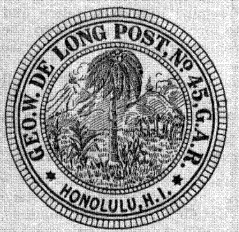
Meets the First Saturday in the Month, at Harmony Hall, King Street.

HONOLULU, H. I., *June* 1, 1897.

Hon. P. C. JONES,
President of the Haw. Society,
Sons of American Revolution.

DEAR SIR: At a regular meeting of Geo. W. De Long Post, No. 45, G. A. R., held on the above date, I was instructed to say that the sentiments contained in the appended Memorial meet with the earnest approval of the officers and members of this Post, and that we fully endorse the same.

R. J. GREENE,
Post Commander.
FRED. SHERMAN,
Post Adjutant.



HEADQUARTERS CAPT. G. C. WILTZE CAMP, No. 4,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
HONOLULU, H. I., *May* 22, 1897.

BROTHERS: At a meeting of above Camp, the accompanying address, prepared and adopted by the Hawaiian Chapter, No. 1, Sons of the American Revolution, was submitted to this Camp for approval, and hereby is unanimously endorsed and recommended to the careful consideration and active assistance of all brother "Sons of Veterans" throughout the United States.

L. K. McGREW, Captain,
JNO. W. SHORT, 2d Lieut.,
GEO. DILLINGHAM, Chaplain,
JAMES F. HILBUS,
Camp Council,
Committee.



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